

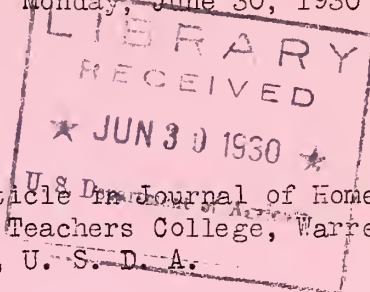
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Housekeepers' Chat

Monday, June 30, 1930

NOT FOR PUBLICATION



Subject: "Edith Goes a-Visiting." Story based on article in Journal of Home Economics, by Ella Groenwold, Central Missouri State Teachers College, Warrensburg; menu and recipes from Bureau of Home Economics, U. S. D. A.

Leaflet available: "Cooking Beef According to the Cut."

--ooOoo--

Once upon a time there was a high school teacher who undertook a project in "personal development." Does that sound interesting to you? It probably does, if you have a daughter of high school age.

Well, one day last year this high school teacher, whom we shall call Miss Dean, sat looking over her busy roomful of sophomore and junior girls, who were taking her course in Home Economics. "After these girls graduate," thought Miss Dean, "they will enter college, to train for teaching, or they will be wage earners for a number of years before they marry. No use to teach them real homemaking activities yet? Because they will soon forget what they cannot put into practice. But what a lot of home economics subject matter there is, of vital importance to these girls!"

Miss Dean was right about the last. Take the matter of food, for instance. How many high school girls realize that the wise choice of food has a great deal to do with efficiency and good looks? Of course an attractive personal appearance is further dependent upon a girl's taste and choice in dress. Social training, which leads to good manners and to the ability to get along with her associates, is another asset. Indeed, when she gets out into the business world, the measure of her success, or likelihood of promotion, may be directly dependent upon her efficiency, her personal appearance, her social training -- all of which are connected with home economics subject matter.

Now, how did Miss Dean choose her particular "personal development" project? One noon she overheard a conversation which suggested it. A group of her students was listening enthusiastically to one girl's account of her week-end visit.

"All girls go a-visiting," thought Miss Dean, "I'll plan an imaginary week-end visit, and see what we can learn from that."

So Miss Dean selected an imaginary girl, named Edith Moore, who was to visit an imaginary friend, Mary Mason, in Kansas City. Edith had never been away from home, and she was afraid she might not know just what to do, in a big city. Wouldn't it be fun for Miss Dean, and her high school girls, to talk about things Edith should understand and do, to be a graceful and welcome guest?

That was the beginning of the most spirited project of the year, for Miss Dean and her students.

First, they decided on Edith's wardrobe. The discussion ended in the making of charts: Edith dressed for the train, Edith in her friend's home, Edith ready for a party, Edith ready for church. Then the class discussed the other things that Edith should take with her. Miss Dean brought her own traveling bag to school, and various toilet articles and other things listed as necessary. She showed the girls how to pack a traveling bag, for a week-end visit. The girls were much interested in the use of paper, to keep dresses from wrinkling.

Next came good manners at table. The school dining room was set for an imaginary menu; and during the "pretend" meal various points were listed as important for Edith to know, such as to be ready on time, to chew with closed lips, to manage such things as soup and bread and butter correctly, to "like" everything on the table.

There would be a party, of course, and church on Sunday. Most important for Edith to know about seemed to be introductions, having a good time without being noisy and shouting with laughter, and being interested in all of Mary's friends rather than pairing off with any one. Miss Dean's high school girls practiced introductions, using any visitor to the class for practice. Good manners in public places received attention, too.

Next, the girls turned their attention to Mary, the girl Edith would visit. For Mary, as hostess, had certain duties to perform. First, the guest room must be clean and in order. The bed in the home-nursing class room allowed for practice in bed making, including the study of sheets long enough to "stay put" on the bed. Each one of Miss Dean's students reported how she cleaned her own room, arranged the top and drawers of the dresser, and put the closet in order.

Then Edith's part in the care of the guest room and bathroom were taken up, point by point. The project was completed with Edith's expression of appreciation of her happy time as she left, and later her short and graceful "bread-and-butter" letter to the friend who entertained her.

While this project was under discussion, Miss Dean's students were going on with their regular class work in sewing, the articles planned and made being an apron dress, and pajamas or a night gown, both of them fitting in well with the discussion of Edith's visit.

Were the girls interested in Edith, and her week-end visit? I should say so. A member of the college observation class, who used to drop in to visit Miss Dean's students, reported the intense interest and spirited discussion by the girls, and added frankly, "I learned a lot of things I didn't know myself."

So that is that -- and I wager that every one of Miss Dean's students will be mighty grateful some day, to the teacher who sponsored the "personal development" project.

We must hasten on. "Life is real, and life is earnest;" we cannot spend our time on imaginary visits to imaginary people, when there are five hungry mouths to feed. Isn't there some meat left over from yesterday's roast? Fine! That means croquettes for today, and in case you want a recipe for Beef Croquettes, turn to the last page of your leaflet, "Cooking Beef According to the Cut." Right there on the back page, ingredients, directions, and everything.

Then let's have some Harvard Beets -- haven't had Harvard Beets for a month of Sundays-- and they will appeal to Jack, just home from college. And isn't he collegiate! My eye! How he has changed -- it's the new moustache, I think, that makes the most difference.

Well, to get back to important things -- how about some Buttered Spring Onions on Toast, to go with the Beef Croquettes and the Beets? And for dessert, Raspberries and Cream.

There's a recipe for Harvard Beets in the Radio Cookbook, and a recipe for Buttered Spring Onions right here. These, too, always make a hit with Jack, and more than once I've heard him say, "Gee, nothing like this in a college chow house!" But all the same he certainly didn't starve at college. He tips the scale 15 pounds more than when he entered four years ago. Now for the Buttered Spring Onions on Toast:

Allow six or seven finger-sized onions for each serving. Trim off the green tops, cook the onions until tender, in lightly salted boiling water, in an uncovered vessel. This will take only about 20 minutes for fresh, young onions. When they have cooked tender, drain, add more salt if needed, and season with melted butter or other fat. In the meantime toast slices of bread. Arrange the onions in the same way as asparagus on toast, and serve at once.

Once more, the menu: Beef Croquettes; Harvard Beets; Buttered Spring Onions on Toast; Raspberries and Cream.

Tuesday: "Canning Beans and Tomatoes."

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